LEARN ASPIRE ACHIEVE

Woods Loke Primary School Newsletter

October 2026 – Issue No.7

The first half term of an academic year is almost always the longest one of the entire year. However, it is also the one where the children settle into their new classes, become familiar with the expectations of a new year group, and lay the foundations for the year ahead. As such, it is usually one of the busiest half terms with a great deal going on, and a glance through the pages of this newsletter will hopefully give you a flavour of all the exciting things that have been happening in school over the past seven and a half weeks.

One of the events that we particularly enjoy, and something that has become an established part of our school calendar, is our Open Lesson weeks. Years 4 and 5 have already welcomed parents in this half term, and the dates for the upcoming sessions were all in the parents' handbook that we sent home in September. The reason open lessons are such a highlight is that they give parents a genuine insight into what goes on in school on a daily basis. These are not 'show lessons' or special events, they are the actual lessons that would be taking place whether parents were in the room or not. Consequently, parents get a glimpse of the day-to-day reality of school life, and often parents are surprised by just how much the children learn in that one lesson. And when you consider that the children will be engaged in five of those lessons in one day, and twenty five such lessons in a week, it really brings home just how important it is for children to be in school all the time. Missing just a single day means that at least five hours of learning are lost. We know that our parents really recognise and appreciate the important role school plays in their children's lives and this is one of the reasons that our attendance levels are so high, as recognised by the Department for Education through our status as a RISE school. Through attending our open lessons, parents gain a real understanding of what goes on in a lesson which helps them to really value the time their children spend in school. So, thank you to you all for supporting good attendance, and we look forward to seeing more of you at our open lessons throughout the year.

In the meantime, enjoy the half term break, and we look forward to seeing you all return, refreshed and ready to LEARN, ASPIRE and ACHIEVE as we head towards December and all the excitement that comes with it...

We value your voice too... have your say by scanning the QR code with your phone camera

SCAN HERE







FEATURED LEADERS OF THE TERM

HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL (AND THE DEPUTIES)



Our new Head Boy (Freddy) and Deputy Head Boy (Stanley) alongside our Head Girl (Lily-Rose) and Deputy Head Girl (Enya).

They are really excited to get started. Look out for them at parents' evenings and the Christmas Fayre.

EXTENDED SCHOOL

Welcome back to all those who attend our extended school provision. It's been lovely to see new faces join us this year already!
First of all, our summer clubs were well attended by so many of you: having fun in forest school, balloon day with the Tricky Twister, and a tropical party to name just a few.
Please look out for next term's activities after school - we have so many exciting crafts, games and activities to share with you all.















We have had a very busy and exciting start to the year in the **Maple Nursery**. The children have settled in beautifully. They have been making new friends and becoming familiar with their new surroundings.

We started the term learning all about ourselves and the people who are important to us. The children enjoyed sharing their All About Me boxes with their friends, talking about their families and their favourite things at home.

We have been exploring the world through our senses. The children have enjoyed discovering and identifying a variety of new scents, including peppermint, fruit tea, cocoa powder and even coriander! We have also been busy in the kitchen, practicing our cooking skills. We baked cakes and cookies, prepared apple crumbles and explored the flavours of roasted vegetables. There have been plenty of opportunities to investigate different smells, tastes and textures along the way.

We moved our learning on by finding out about life on a farm, learning about where our food comes from and exploring a variety of fruits and vegetables. We learnt about lots of farm animals and enjoyed our song of the term - Old McDonald.

Creativity has been a big part of our learning too! Our art stimuli has been Quadrangular Spots painted by Sophie Taeuber-Arp. The children worked together to create a giant piece of artwork for our classroom. It gave them the opportunity to discuss their favourite colours and what it means to them.





Willow Nursery have had a wonderful first half term. They have all settled in so well and have become familiar with the Nursery rules and routines. We have been enjoying the lovely warm weather and have spent lots of time outside, the children have enjoyed creating obstacle courses, making cakes in the mud kitchen and creating potions in the water tray. There has been a lot of interest in fire engines and creating these with our large wooden blocks. We were then very lucky to get a visit from the fire service who showed us all of their equipment, let us sit in the fire engine and shoot water from the hose.

We have also started our nature days which the children have loved. This half term we have explored, sticks, berries, apples, moon and stars, pumpkins. During our session on apples the children enjoyed tasting different types of apples and then making an apple crumble which was delicious!









Learn, Aspire, Achieve

RECEPTION





We have had a fantastic first half term and we have been pleased with how quickly the children have settled into our **Reception** classes. All of the children are becoming familiar with school routines and getting to know their environments both inside and outside.

The children have been working hard on learning lots of new sounds. They have been learning songs and actions and have been using them to write lots of words and even sentences! In Maths we have been practising counting, subitising and finding different ways to make 5. We have also been exploring patterns and the children have been creating their own repeating patterns with lots of loose parts.

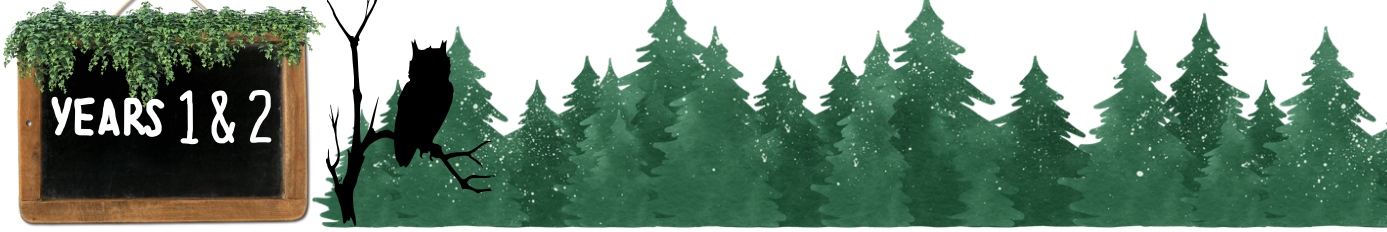
Thank you to your generous contributions, the children have had plenty of opportunities to cook and bake this half term. They have enjoyed exploring different ingredients, measuring and weighing as well as stirring and mixing. They made a selection of food including: cookies, apple puffs, pumpkin soup and chocolate apples.

Autumn has been a big feature this half term. We have been finding out about the changes we see during the season and have been on many Autumn walks around the school grounds. We have of course been finding out about Halloween too!

In our other learning, lots of the children are interested in the emergency services so we had a visit from a police officer, the coast guard, a dentist and the fire service. They got to ask lots of questions, try on their equipment and even got to use the water hose! Using this as a stimulus, the children have been creating their own emergency vehicles in our construction area and role-playing all the different people who help us.

We are super proud of all of the children's learning this half term and we are excited to see where else the children's interests take us.



It has been a really calm and settled start to the year in **Years 1 and 2**. The children have demonstrated an excellent 'ready to learn' attitude in their new classes and have been so keen to talk about and share their new knowledge of our topics so far.

In **Year 1**, we have been learning about traditional fairy tales. We started with 'The Little Red Hen', the children retold the story as storytellers, baked bread and wrote instructions of how to make it. We then read 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', which the children loved acting out through drama and song. We have also designed and built a wolf-proof house for the three little pigs.
The art focus in Year 1 this half term was 'Self portrait' by Vincent Van Gogh, the children created some amazing self-portraits using transient art and through drawing.
We have been learning about our bodies in science, the children have enjoyed exploring different objects and smells using their five senses. We also investigated what objects are made from, different materials and their properties. The children were challenged to explore the best waterproof material for the teddy so it would not get wet in the rain.








Meanwhile in **Year 2**, we have been having a 'hoot' as we have been learning all about owls!
Using our stimulus text 'The Owl Who was Afraid of the Dark,' the children have got to know the character of Plop and have written their own sequel to the story, whereby Plop becomes afraid of something new. We also worked with our specialist dance teacher to create owl moves in our special performance to our Twin Class.
Alongside our study of the story and our dance, the children have been learning about owl habitats and food chains as part of their Science unit. To enhance our learning, we had a visit from Sally from The Suffolk Bird Group. She brought many photos of owls, played the different noises by different owl species and told us many amazing owl facts. They also brought some owl pellets and we got to dissect the pellets to see what bones we could find! We absolutely loved our visit and pellet lesson!
To complete our owl topic, we went to Carlton Marshes to see bird habitats for ourselves. We had a great day, learning about owls and even bird migration ready for our next topic!






The new year has started so well, it seems ages ago that the children arrived in their new classes as they have all settled down so well. Eight weeks is a long half term, but the amount of work that has been achieved is phenomenal. We have already had visitors to both year groups.

In **Year 3** the children have settled really well into their new key stage. They have thoroughly enjoyed their Egyptian topic where they have completed their own research to answer questions about the past. They have then used their historical knowledge to write stories about pyramids and Egyptian gods and goddesses. In geography we have studied the geographical features of Egypt and compared them to where we live. Year 3 had a very informative and fun Egypt Day that supported their topic learning. The children and staff looked amazing in their outfits, getting in role. In science we have been exploring light sources and have completed some investigations around shadows and how light can be reflected. As well as this Year 3 have enjoyed music with our specialist teacher and bread making in food technology. The children have very much enjoyed experiencing their first group of Friday afternoon diploma. They will undertake a different diploma after half term.



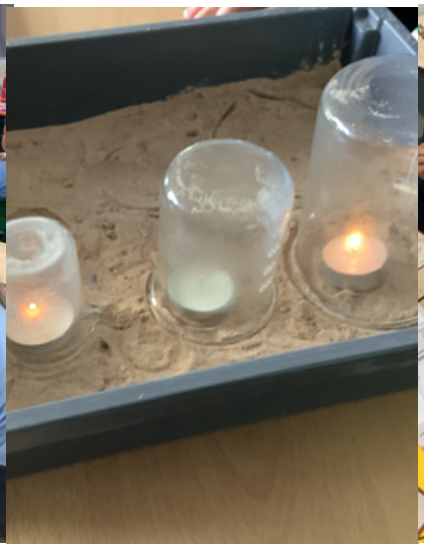


The topic in **Year 4** has been Chocolate (how could that ever not have been good!) linked to Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Our reading lessons and writing have come from this with children describing their own sweet rooms and character to use in their final narrative. We have also studied lots of geography as we researched weather and climate zones, for Cacao bean production. We learnt the features of explanation text and then wrote our own about the production of chocolate, from beans growing through to sale. Obviously, we have also tasted different chocolates! Science has been looking at the states of matter which linked well to melting chocolate and the water cycle linked to weather. Using Bunsen Burners was a highlight. We had a visit from RWE which opened all our eyes to how an off shore wind project could involve so many job roles, from archaeologist to drone pilot!

Year 4 have DT to look forward to next half term, making 5-star Bug Hotels.









These examples highlight the learning journey the children have made already. We are looking forward to a very busy few weeks after half term, continuing our learning and also preparing for some great fun things like inviting parents in for a Christmas event and the Christmas Fayre.





It has been a busy and exciting term in **Year 5**, with the children exploring some fascinating historical periods and developing their creative writing skills. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, curiosity and hard work!
This term, their topic has been Crime and Punishment, where the children have explored how crimes were punished across different periods of British history. They travelled through time, investigating crime and punishment during the Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Tudor and Victorian periods, as well as exploring the harsh punishments associated with the Bloody Code.
The children examined a variety of historical sources to find out how people were punished, how the judicial system developed and how attitudes towards crime changed over time. They made comparisons between the different periods, identifying similarities and differences and considering how and why punishments changed.
To bring our topic to life, Year 5 visited Norwich Castle, a former prison. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a crime scene investigation, participating in a mock trial and exploring the castle's dungeons. It was a fantastic opportunity to deepen their historical understanding and experience aspects of crime and punishment first-hand.
Our exploration of the Victorian period will provide an exciting link to our history learning next term, allowing us to build on the knowledge and understanding developed so far.
In English, our focus text has been Grimms' Fairy Tales. The children explored a range of traditional tales, looking closely at their characters, settings, language and story structures.

It has been another busy and exciting period of learning in **Year 6**! In History, they have been studying The British Empire, exploring how and why it grew and changed over time. They have used a range of historical sources and maps to investigate the development of the Empire and deepen their understanding of this significant period in British history.
Their learning then moved on to the North Atlantic slave trade. The children explored what life was like for enslaved people, learned about the abolition of slavery and considered how slavery continues to exist in the modern world.
In English, Year 6 began by exploring The Island by Armin Greder. This thought-provoking picture book inspired the children to write from a range of perspectives and develop their persuasive writing skills. They considered the question of whether the island's inhabitants should allow a man who had arrived by boat to stay, or send him back out to sea. This led to some excellent discussions, with the children sharing and justifying their opinions while considering different viewpoints. They also made connections between the themes of the book and modern-day issues surrounding migration, belonging and how we treat others.
They then moved on to Francis, a short-animated film about a girl who disappears in mysterious circumstances. The children used the film as inspiration to write scripts and perform live news reports, developing their speaking, listening and presentation skills. The children then brought all these skills together to write their own full newspaper reports about the mysterious events, focusing on creating engaging headlines, using formal journalistic language and presenting information clearly for their readers.
In Art, the children have been working with our specialist Art teacher to explore the work of renowned artist Louise Bourgeois, whose sculptures include her famous spider artworks.
Inspired by her work, the children began by sketching spiders and a variety of insects, carefully observing shapes, details and features. They then used their ideas to create their own clay insects, adding wire legs to bring their creations to life. The children enjoyed experimenting with materials and developing their skills in both drawing and three-dimensional sculpture.
We are very proud of the thoughtfulness, creativity and enthusiasm the children have shown across these areas of learning. They have tackled challenging themes, expressed their ideas confidently and continued to develop the skills they will need as they prepare for the next stage of their education.
Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

THE SPORTS REPORT

This half term our sports leaders have been learning what the responsibilities are that come with the role of being a sports leader. Each sports leader received a booklet describing what a sports leader is, ideas of activities they could lead and a log for them to fill in and get signed by Miss Hill. Our sports leaders also filled in their goals, which they hope to achieve whilst being a sports leaders.

On Tuesday 28th September, a group of year 6 Woods Loke children travelled to Barnards Meadow to compete in a football tournament. Well done to all the children involved, you worked together as a team and represented the school amazingly!



FROM THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council hosted a lunch with some of the school Governors where they were able to share their aspirations and ideas for the year ahead. They also received their badges. The School Council shared the chosen charities for the year which are:

Waveney Enterprise Trust, a local charity based in Beccles, supporting adults and young people to make and sell creative products to the community.

SADS supplies defibrillators to schools and communities, provides CPR training and offers counselling and support.

UNICEF, a national charity which supports children who might need support and help across the world.

The School Council have had a very successful start to the year and we are delighted to announce that, thanks to your support, we have already raised nearly £500 for our chosen charities.

School Council have been busy making reward bags for you and your child to purchase on the parent consultations, they will be sending out a letter closer to the time.

It promises to be a very successful year ahead and I'm looking forward to working alongside this group of children who are committed and passionate about their school.

Mrs. Barratt

